

REMARKS

Applicants wish to thank Examiner Rodee for the helpful discussion with Applicants' Representative on February 6, 2007. Amendments for Claims 12 and 27 were discussed.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application, as amended, in view of the following remarks.

The rejection of Claims 12 and 27 over Toda et al is obviated by the amendment of these claims to be consistent with the priority document, paragraphs [0033] and [0080]. Regarding Claim 27, such claim appears to be supported by paragraph [0080] of the priority document as well as page 13 of the specification of the present case. The phrase "at least one of" includes a case where all listed elements (charging unit, developing unit, transferring unit and cleaning unit) are present and thus supports the amendment of Claim 27. Thus, Toda et al is not available as prior art against the present invention. Applicants previously submitted a Certified English Translation of the Japanese priority document JP2003-079206, thereby perfecting their claim to priority.

Further, the Examiner is requested to withdraw the provisional double patenting rejection if it is the only issue remaining in this case and convert the provisional rejection in the other application to a double patenting rejection. MPEP 822.01.

In addition, Applicants note that MPEP §821.04 states, "if applicant elects claims directed to the product, and a product claim is subsequently found allowable, withdrawn process claims which depend from or otherwise include all the limitations of the allowable product claim will be rejoined." Applicants respectfully submit that should the elected group be found allowable, the non-elected Claim 19 should be rejoined.

Applicants also request consideration of the List of Related Cases filed herewith (certification and fee are included).

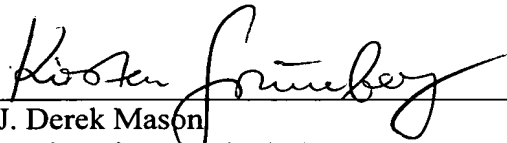
Application No.: 10/804,067

Reply to Office Action of: November 27, 2006

This application presents allowable subject matter, and the Examiner is kindly requested to pass it to issue. Should the Examiner have any questions regarding the claims or otherwise wish to discuss this case, he is kindly invited to contact Applicants' below-signed representative, who would be happy to provide any assistance deemed necessary in speeding this application to allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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